

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A cooperative advance warning system for use on a vehicle to warn
5 drivers of oncoming vehicles of an upcoming, unexpected road hazard
comprising:
- a lamp mounted on the vehicle in a location where light emitted by said
lamp is visible to drivers of the oncoming vehicles;
 - 10 a switch means connected to said lamp for activating and deactivating
said lamp, said switch means mounted to the vehicle in a location that is easily
accessible to the driver of the vehicle; and
 - an electronic control means connected to said lamp for controlling the
characteristics of the light emitted by said lamp, said electronic control means
15 being capable of causing said lamp to flash on and off at a pre-determined
frequency, said predetermined frequency being variable depending on the
length of time said lamp has been activated.
2. A cooperative advance warning system according to claim 1, wherein
20 said electronic control means comprises means to automatically deactivate said
lamp after a pre-determined period of time following activation.
3. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1 or 2,
wherein said pre-determined frequency is inversely proportional to the length
of time said lamp has been activated.
- 25 4. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1 or 2,
wherein said pre-determined frequency comprises a cadence.

5. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said electronic control means further comprises means to maintain said pre-determined frequency or cadence at a particular value for an indefinite period.

6. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, further comprising an in-use indicator light connected to said switch means and to said electronic control means for indicating to the driver of the vehicle when the cooperative advance warning system is operating.

7. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the colour of light emitted by said lamp is selected from the group of colours consisting of fuchsia and pink.

8. A portable cooperative advance warning system for use in warning drivers of oncoming vehicles of an upcoming, unexpected road hazard comprising:

a housing;

a lamp mounted to said housing;

a switch means mounted on said housing and connected to said lamp for activating and deactivating said lamp;

an electronic control means mounted to said housing and connected to said lamp for controlling the characteristics of the light emitted by said lamp, said electronic control means being capable of causing said lamp to flash on and off at a pre-determined frequency, said predetermined frequency being variable depending on the distance from the road hazard; and

a power supply for providing power to the system.

9. A portable cooperative advance warning system according to claim 8, wherein said pre-determined frequency comprises a cadence.

5 10. A portable cooperative advance warning system according to claims 8 and 9, further comprising an in-use indicator light connected to said switch means and to said electronic control means for indicating when the cooperative advance warning system is operating.

10 11. A portable cooperative advance warning system according to claims 8, 9 or 10 wherein the colour of light emitted by said lamp is selected from the group of colours consisting of fuchsia and pink.

12. A cooperative advance warning system according to claim 1, for use on a vehicle having brake lights, further comprising:

15 a connection between said electronic control means and the vehicle brake lights,

said electronic control means being capable of causing the vehicle brake lights to flash on and off at a high frequency upon activation of the advance warning system.

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13. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1 or 12, further comprising:

a rear-facing warning light mounted on the rear of the vehicle; and

25 a connection between said electronic control means and said rear-facing warning light,

said electronic control means being capable of causing said rear-facing warning light to flash on and off at a high frequency upon activation of the advance warning system.

14. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 12 or 13, wherein the vehicle brake lights remain flashing on and off only for a pre-determined period of time following activation of the advance warning system

5 15. A cooperative advance warning system according to claim 13, wherein said rear-facing warning light remains flashing on and off only for a pre-determined period of time following activation of the advance warning system

10 16. A cooperative advance warning system according to claim 1, for use on a vehicle having brake lights, further comprising:

a connection between said electronic control means and the vehicle brake lights,

said electronic control means being capable of causing the vehicle brake lights and said lamp to flash on and off at a high frequency upon
15 activation of the advance warning system,

said switch having a first mode for activating and deactivating said lamp only, and a second mode for activating and deactivating both said lamp and the vehicle brake lights.

20 17. A cooperative advance warning system according to claims 1 or 16 further comprising:

a rear-facing warning light mounted on the rear of the vehicle; and
a connection between said electronic control means and said rear-facing warning light,

25 said electronic control means being capable of causing said rear-facing warning light to flash on and off at a high frequency upon activation of the advance warning system,

said switch having a first mode for activating and deactivating said lamp only, and a second mode for activating and deactivating both said lamp, and said rear-facing warning light.